



Executive Office of the President
Council on Environmental Quality



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**Trump Administration Delivers Implementation Plan to Map, Explore, and
Characterize our Oceans**

*White House CEQ and OSTP Release Plan for Mapping the United States Exclusive Economic
Zone*

WASHINGTON – Today, The White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Chairman Mary Neumayr and Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) Director Dr. Kelvin Droegemeier, as Co-chairs of the Ocean Policy Committee (OPC), released an Implementation Plan for the National Strategy for Ocean Mapping, Exploring, and Characterizing the United States Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

To increase our Nation’s economic competitiveness, strengthen our national security, protect our environment, and enhance our health, on November 19, 2019, President Trump signed a Presidential Memorandum (PM) titled “[Ocean Mapping of the United States Exclusive Economic Zone and the Shoreline and Nearshore of Alaska](#).” This PM directs agencies to pursue mapping, exploring, and characterizing the United States EEZ, an oceanic area larger than the terrestrial landmass of the United States. As directed by the PM, the OPC issued the “[National Strategy for Ocean Mapping, Exploring, and Characterizing the United States Exclusive Economic Zone](#)” (NOMECS Strategy) in June 2020, which provided for the establishment of the National Ocean Mapping, Exploration and Characterization (NOMECS) Council. The Implementation Plan announced today details the steps that agencies will take to fully map the deep waters of the United States EEZ by 2030 and the coastal United States waters by 2040, explore and characterize priority areas, support technological innovation, and promote increased collaboration with ocean stakeholders and the public. Public input informed the Implementation Plan and will be regularly solicited throughout implementation of the NOMECS Strategy.

“Today’s announcement is an important step towards better understanding America’s oceans and coastlines, which will enhance our security and prosperity, and inform our use and conservation of resources. By acting on President Trump’s bold vision for the exploration and mapping of the United States EEZ, our Nation will be able to harness cutting-edge science, new technologies, and partnerships to unlock the potential of our oceans,” **said CEQ Chairman Mary Neumayr.**

“Under President Trump’s leadership, we have made critical strides in mapping, exploring, and characterizing our oceans, and implementing the NOMECS Strategy is another great step forward. The Trump Administration is dedicated to further mapping and studying the United States EEZ to support the conservation, understanding, management, and balanced use of our ocean resources. There is so much yet to be discovered in our vast oceans and with more knowledge of this great asset, science, innovation, technologies, and partnerships are limitless,” **said OSTP Director Dr. Kelvin Droegemeier.**

“Fully mapping, exploring and characterizing the United States Exclusive Economic Zone will enable us to strengthen America’s blue economy through sustainable use of our ocean,” **said Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and Deputy NOAA Administrator retired Navy Rear Admiral Tim Gallaudet, Ph.D.** “This plan takes advantage of exciting advances in ocean technology and harnesses key partnerships with states, academia, non-governmental organizations, industry and philanthropy to help reveal the mysteries of America’s oceans and unleash their potential for future generations.”

“The offshore regions within the Exclusive Economic Zones of the United States contain many of the resources required for our economy, everything from critical seabed minerals to unconventional energy resources most notably in the form of methane hydrates,” **said USGS Director Dr. Jim Reilly.** “It is also an area where critical habitat for unique communities of organisms exist and where hazards are present that can profoundly impact our citizens, their property, and our infrastructure. Our [USGS] core responsibility to understand and characterize the Nations’ resource and hazard potential extends offshore across and beyond the EEZ. The shared goals and collaborative strategies resulting from this Plan will integrate USGS science leadership with the interests and capacities of our federal, state, academic, and other partners; resulting in more effective discovery and delivery of knowledge across our vast ocean interests.”

To read the full Implementation Plan [click here](#).

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